

X/4 C/S - GRANATKIN PROTESTS AGAINST FOOTBALL REDRAW

(FOLLOWS CN 102 OF YESTERDAY AND W/CN 68 OF TODAY)

MUNICH, SEPT 5 (CMD) - VALENTIN GRANATKIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET FOOTBALL FEDERATION, TODAY PROTESTED AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL UNION (UEFA) TO SEPARATE EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN CLUBS IN EUROPE'S TOP SOCCER COMPETITIONS.

TASS SAID GRANATKIN TOLD A CORRESPONDENT OF THE MOSCOW NEWSPAPER, SOVETSKY SPORT, THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD A NEW DRAW IN THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP TOURNAMENT AND THE CUPHOLDERS CUP TOURNAMENT WAS NOTHING OTHER THAN "POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOOTBALL ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

(CMD) THE DECISION TO HOLD A NEW DRAW WAS MADE BY THE UEFA LAST FRIDAY "TO FORESTALL DISRUPTION BY POSSIBLE BOYCOTTS OVER THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS."

TASS QUOTED GRANATKIN AS SAYING THE DECISION IS UNPRECEDENTED IN FOOTBALL HISTORY AND THAT IT WAS MADE "WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF MOST NATIONAL FEDERATIONS."

GRANATKIN CLAIMED "THE MAIN INSPIRER OF THE NEW DRAW WAS THE PRESIDENT OF UEFA, THE SWISS CAPITALIST GUSTAV WIEDERKEHR."

"GRANATKIN RECALLS," TASS SAID, "THAT IN HIS TIME WIEDERKEHR TRIED TO RESTRICT THE RIGHTS OF FOOTBALL ORGANIZATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND ASIA, AND IN 1956 TO BOYCOTT SOVIET SPORTSMEN."

THE TASS REPORT CONTINUED:

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SPORTS THE NEW "DRAW", GRANATKIN STRESSES, "IS AN ATTEMPT BY THE MANAGERS OF SOME TEAMS, FIRST OF ALL THE SCOTTISH "CELTIC," TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE LEGITIMATE DRAW THAT PROVED UNFAVOURABLE FOR THEM. AS A RESULT OF UEFAS ACTIONS, THE "CELTIC" AS WELL AS THE SWISS "ZURICH" AND THE ITALIAN "MILAN" HAVE WEAKER, MORE "CONVENIENT" OPPONENTS. THIS WAS FRANKLY STATED BY THE MANAGER OF "ZURICH" EDDY NAGELI: "NOW WE WILL EASILY QUALIFY FOR THE SECOND ROUND AND MAKE A HANDSOME PROFIT."

IT IS NOT RPT NOT ACCIDENTAL THAT WIEDERKEHR WAS SECONDED IN THE HOLDING OF THE NEW "DRAW" BY THE ITALIAN FRANCHI AND THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE POWELL, THAT IS PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESS OF "CELTIC" AND "MILAN."

"THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT A DRAW BUT AN ARTIFICIAL DIVISION OF TEAMS," GRANATKIN SAID. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR FOOTBALL FEDERATION STRESSED THE UNSEEMLY POSITION OF UEFA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS WHO HAD ADOPTED SUCH A SHAMEFUL DECISION WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF MOST NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND EVEN UEFA VICE PRESIDENTS. INCIDENTALLY, GRANATKIN NOTED, SCHEDULED IN BUDAPEST FOR SEPTEMBER 11 IS THE FINAL OF THE FAIRS CUP BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN "VASAS" AND THE ENGLISH "LEEDS." NEITHER OF THE TWO CLUBS FINDS ANY REASONS FOR POSTPONING THE GAME.

THE TASS REPORT CONCLUDED:

"THE USSR FOOTBALL FEDERATION SENT A STRONG PROTEST TO UEFA AGAINST THE UNPRECEDENTED DECISION OF THE EMERGENCY SESSION OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND RESERVED THE RIGHT IN THE EVENT OF A TURNING DOWN OF THE PROTEST TO APPEAL TO THE FIFA EXECUTIVE. WE DEMAND A RESTORATION OF THE DRAW HELD ON JULY 10," GRANATKIN CONCLUDES. (ITEM ENDS) (TASS IN ENGLISH, SEPT 5)

REN/HE /np

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